

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-07 DODE-00

PM-04 EUR-12 SP-02 /088 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO ERDA GERMANTOWN

ERDA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7582

UNCLAS TOKYO 6786

ERDA FOR ERB, HELFRICH, MC DONOUGH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, JA

SUBJECT: US/JAPAN COOPERATION IN HTGR & LWR TECHNOLOGY

REF: FEB 28 LTR ERB TO HENOC

1. PER REQUEST REF LETTER ERDA REP MET WITH JAERI POWER REACTOR PROJECTS CHIEF TAKETANI, TECHNICAL PROMOTION DIVISION REPS YAMAGISHI AND AKAZAWA TO EVALUATE LEVEL OF INTEREST OF JAERI AND LIKLIHOOD OF ERDA BENEFIT FROM US-JAPAN COOPERATIVE EFFORTS IN HTGR AND LWR TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS. PART OF PROBLEM RELATED TO DELAY IN GET TOGETHER DUE TO TAKETANI'S UNAVAILABILITY DURING APRIL TRIP TO US.

2. TAKETANI INDICATED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH ERDA STAFF IN WASHINGTON POSSIBILITY OF SOME SORT OF COOPERATIVE HTGR PROGRAM AND WAS GIVEN COPY US-W. GERMANY DRAFT AGREEMENT TRANSMITTED WITH REF, BUT RECEIVED NO OTHER INFO ON STATUS, PLANS, FUNDING, CONTRACTORS, ETC. OF HTGR EFFORT IN US. AS BEST ERDA REP COULD ASCERTAIN, TAKETANI FELT HIS PROPOSAL HAD RECEIVED ONLY LUKEWARM RECEPTION BY ERDA. TAKETANI SAID HE UNDER-
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STOOD ERB PLANNING TRIP TO JAPAN AND WELCOMES IDEA, BUT WOULD BE VERY MUCH BETTER PREPARED FOR DISCUSSIONS IF US PROGRAMMATIC INFO ON HTGR PROGRAM PRECEDED VISIT. TAKETANI STATED THAT HE LEFT SUCH INFO ABOUT JAPANESE PROGRAMS WITH ERDA.

3. TAKETANI SAID THAT WEST GERMAN REACTOR DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR DAUNERT VISITED JAPAN IN JANUARY 1977 AND PROPOSED

BILATERAL WHICH JAPANESE EXPECT TO BE CONCLUDED BY FALL, 1977.
ON BASIS PAST PERFORMANCE EXPECTATION SOUNDS OPTIMISTIC.
NEVERTHELESS, COORDINATION 3 SIMILAR BILATERALS NEEDS THOUGHT
AND DISCUSSION.

4. ERDA REP GAVE COPIES LWR PROGRAMMATIC INFO TRANSMITTED
WITH REF TO TAKETANI FOR REVIEW. AS ERDA AWARE, NRC CONDUCTING
VERY ACTIVE LWR TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE WITH JAPAN(NUCLEAR SAFETY
BUREAU).

5. IN SUMMARY, ERDA REP BELIEVES LWR TECHNOLOGY BILATERAL
OF VERY DEFINITE, POSITIVE VALUE TO BOTH COUNTRIES, BUT TWO
PROBLEMS NEED SORTING OUT: A) COORDINATION OF NRC AND ERDA
RELATIONSHIPS WITH JAPANESE, B) IDENTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATE
JAPANESE ORGANIZATIONAL PARTICIPATION (I.E. UTILITIES, GOVT,
REACTOR MANUFACTURERS) AND MECHANISM TO AVOID DUPLICATION WITH
EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS SUCH AS UTILITIES WITH COMMON PROBLEMS
LIKE BWR-6 CLUB.

6. HTGR BILATERAL, AT THIS POINT, SEEMS OF LESSER CON-
SEQUENCE AND VALUE, BUT THIS JUDGEMENT MAY BE DUE TO
INSUFFICIENT FAMILIARITY WITH SCOPE, DEPTH AND DEGREE OF
COMMITMENT US EFFORT. JAPANESE HAVE BEEN PUSHING HTGR
DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE HEAT SOURCE FOR STEEL MAKING SINCE
JAPAN IMPORTS \$2-3 BILLION WORTH OF COKING COAL ANNUALLY
AND WOULD PREFER ALTERNATIVE, BUT WITH GA HTGR DEMISE JAPAN
SEEKING MORE CERTAIN RELATIONSHIP AND NEEDS TO BE CONVINCED
THAT US TRULY COMMITTED.

SHOESMITH
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